



DARK NIGHTS

4

METAL



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapion**

**FCO
Plascencia**

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS
DCCOMICS.COM FEB 2018



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JIM LEE
ILLUSTRATION

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Once upon a time, there was a library full of stories that would never be told.

And so after battling the Dark Knights, and barely escaping with their lives, our heroes continue their search for the universe's last bits of Nth Metal, the only material that might be used to repel the World-Ender, Barbados, and his evil paladins.

While the ones called Wonder Woman, Doctor Fate and Kendra Saunders make their way to the Rock of Eternity in search of the fabled Mace of Carter Hall, the Hawkman...

...the ocean king, Aquaman, and the mercenary Deathstroke venture to the ancient and forbidden burial grounds of Atlantis, where a trove of Nth Metal is said to be hidden.

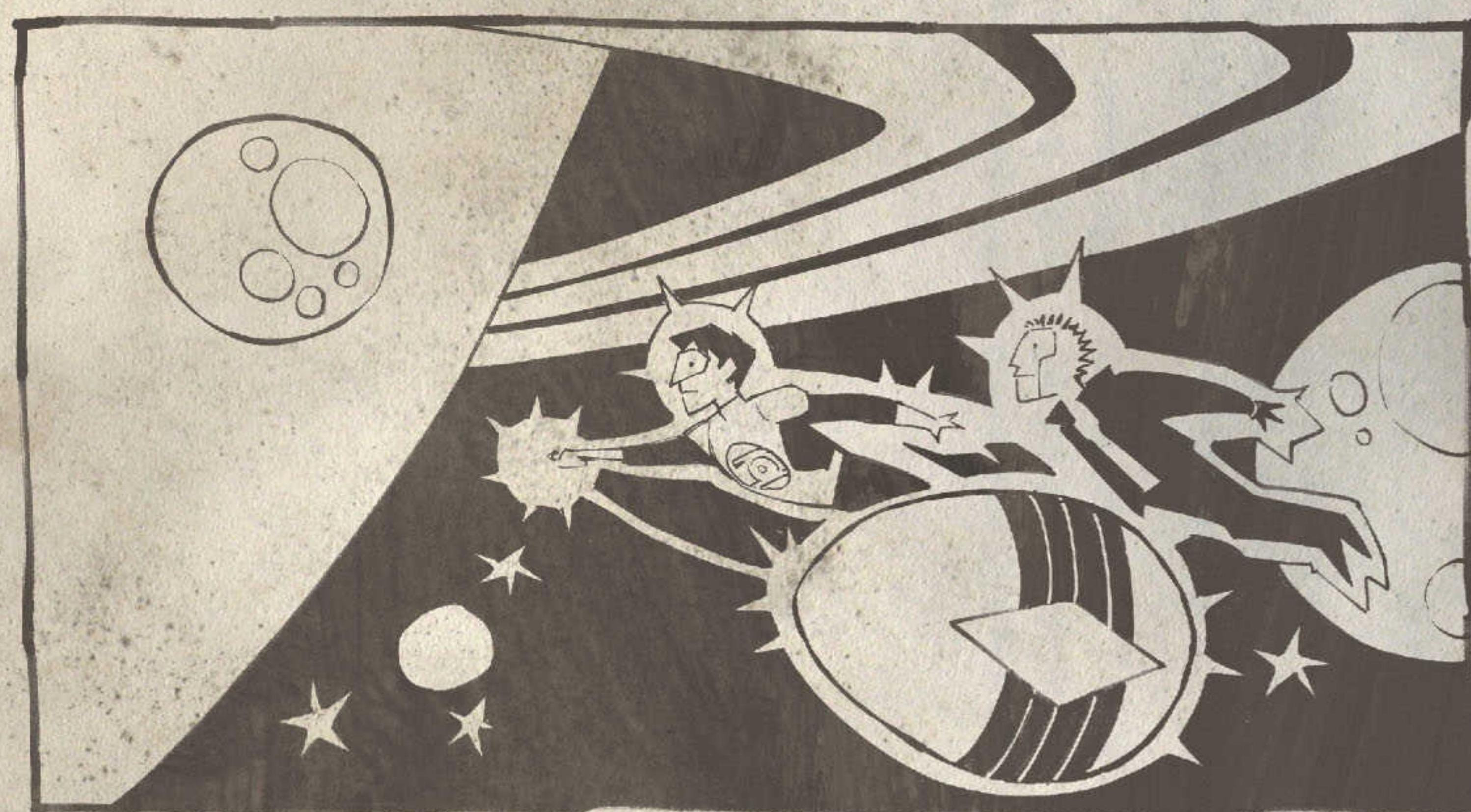
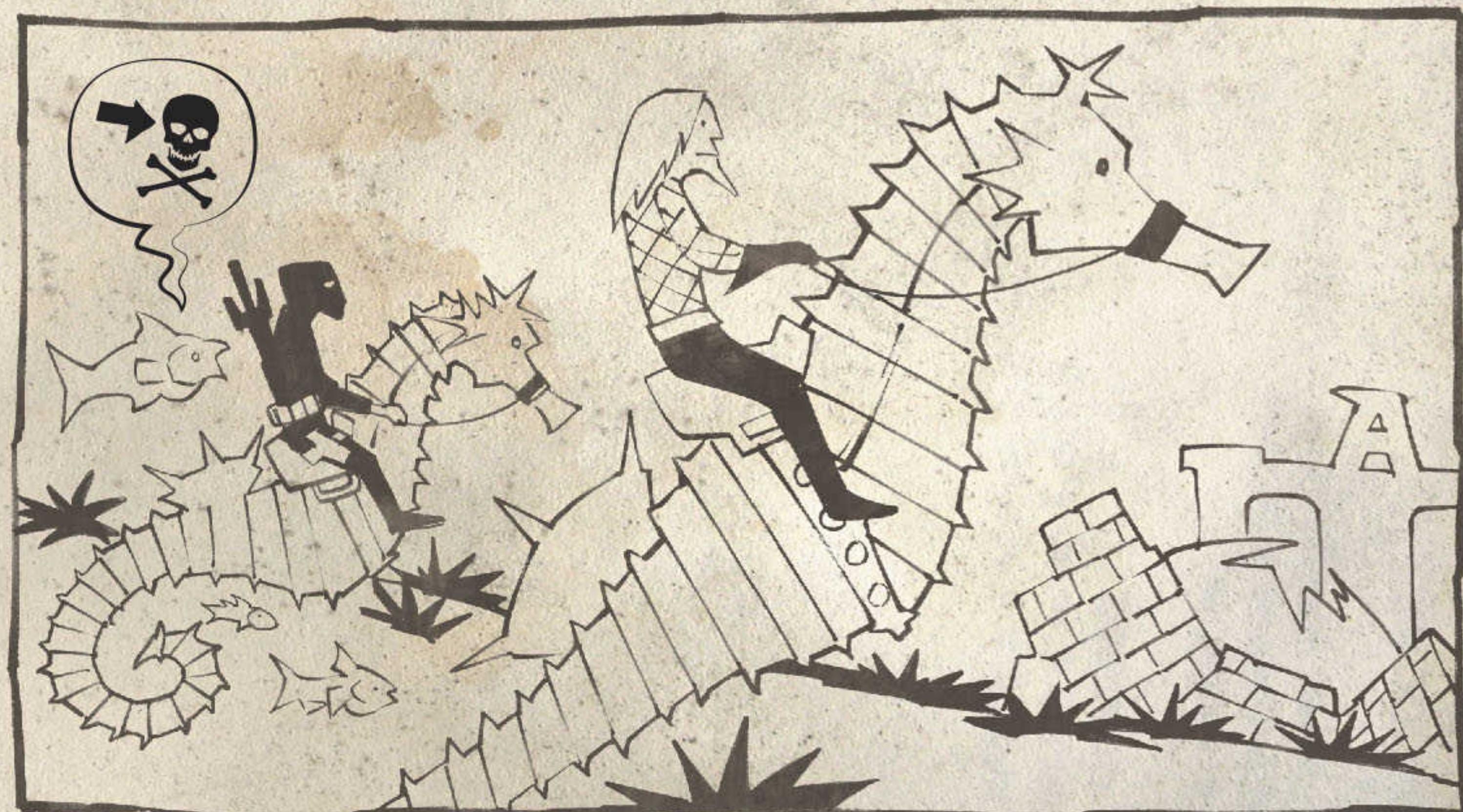
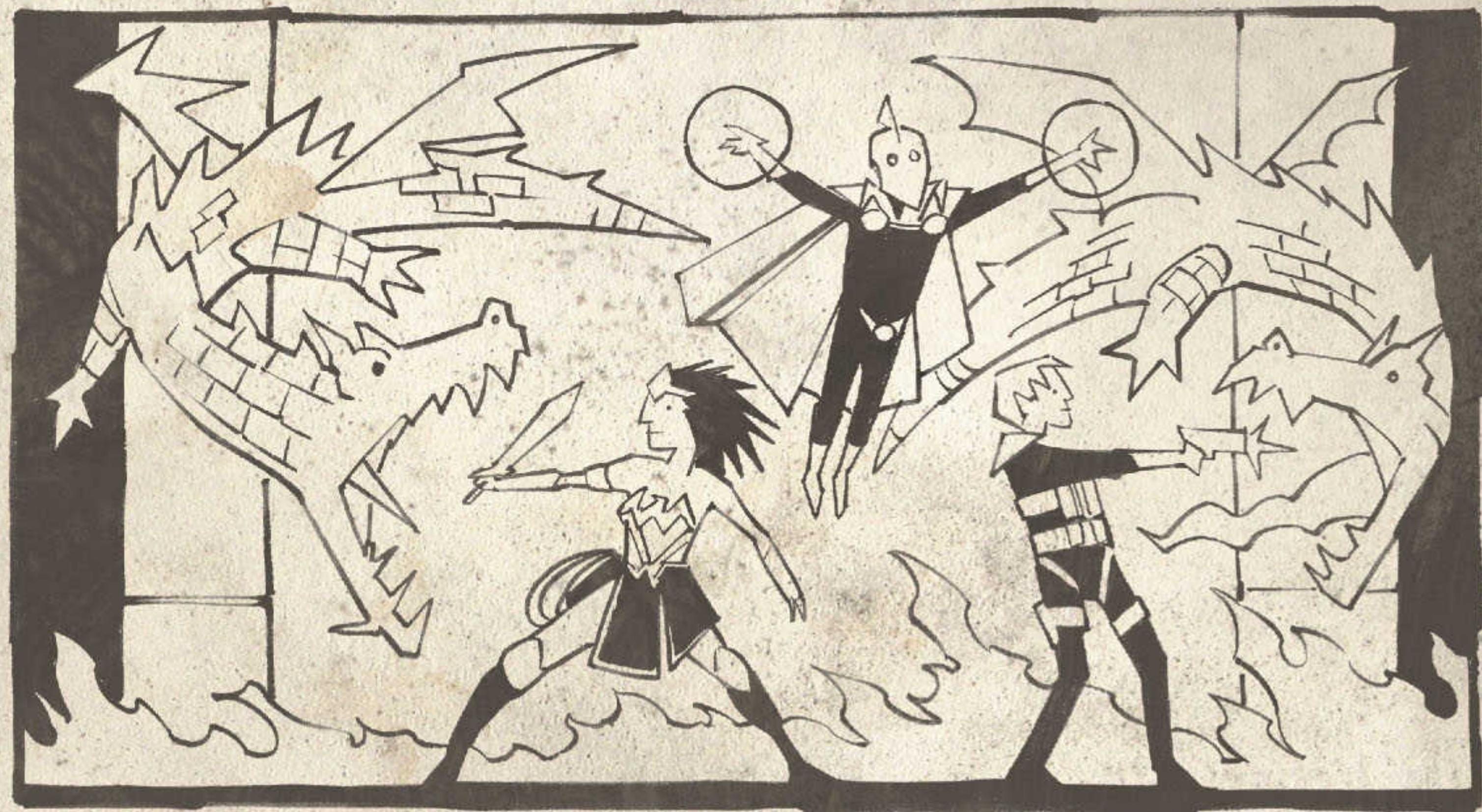
Meanwhile, the galactic guardian Green Lantern, the cosmic scientist Mr. Terrific, and Plastic...egg... seek Nth Metal on the hidden planet of Thanagar Prime...

...as the speedmaster Flash and the mysterious and powerful Eyborg search the multiverse for help.

They are hopeful, these heroes, and formidable, but there is something dark they do not know.

Impossible stories destined only to happen in dream, or in nightmare.

Should any of these stories be spoken, let alone actually occur...



...the whole library will **burn...**

...and the world will likely burn with it.

THE DARK MULTIVERSE.

COME ON,
OLD FRIEND.
IT'S TIME.

NO
MORE...
PLEASE...

EASY,
BRUCE.
WE'RE HERE
TO SAVE
YOU.

NO...YOU...
YOU'RE NOT
CLARK, YOU'RE
HIS--

HIS NIGHTMARES?
LIKE WHAT IF HE FINALLY
KILLED YOU AND TOOK YOUR
MANTLE AND IT JUST
FELT...SO GOOD?

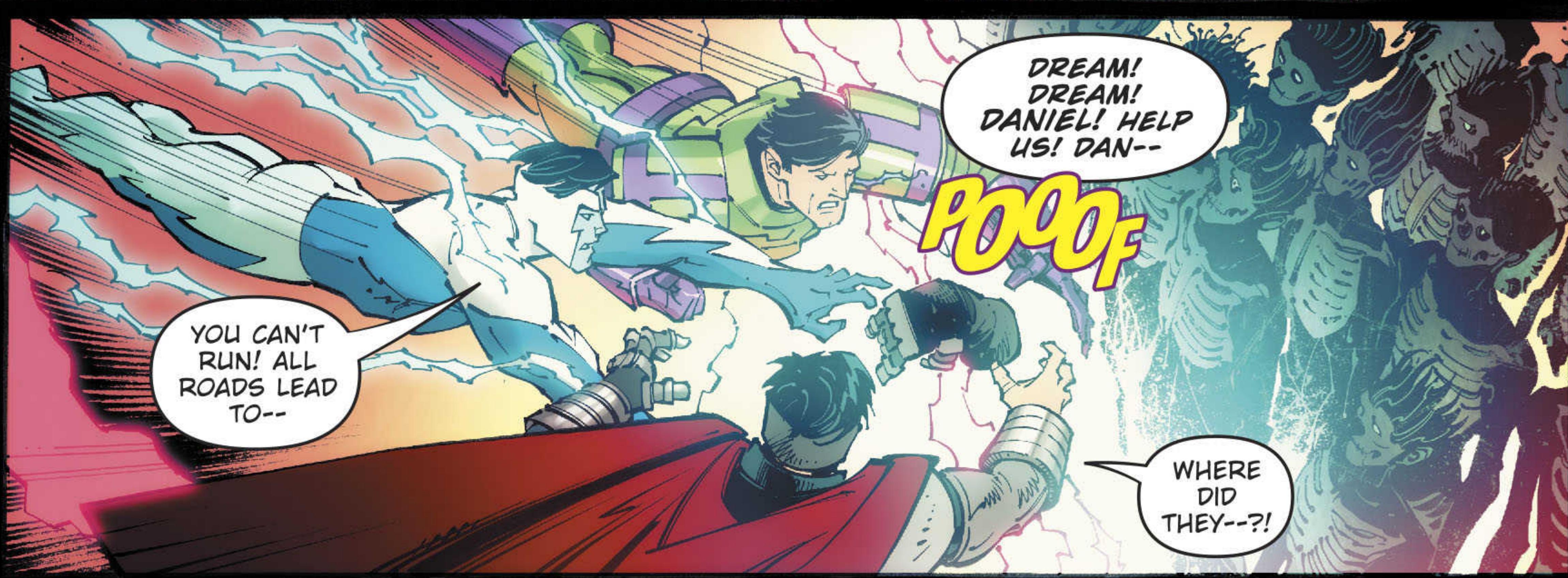
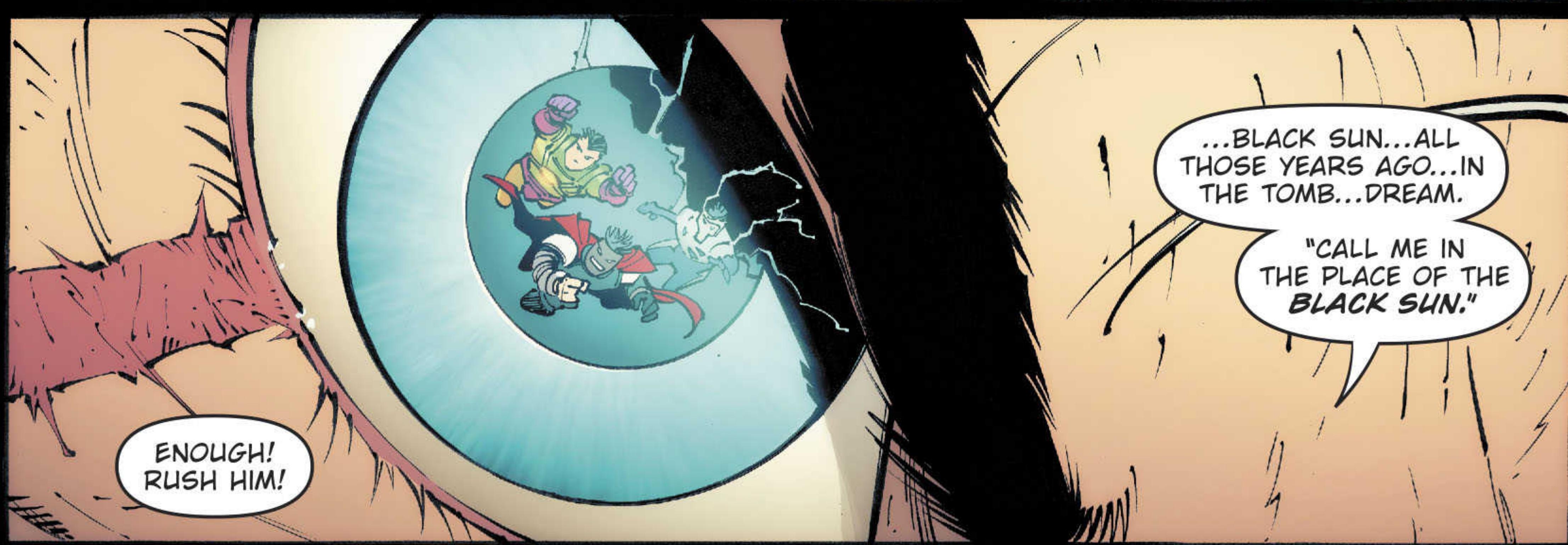
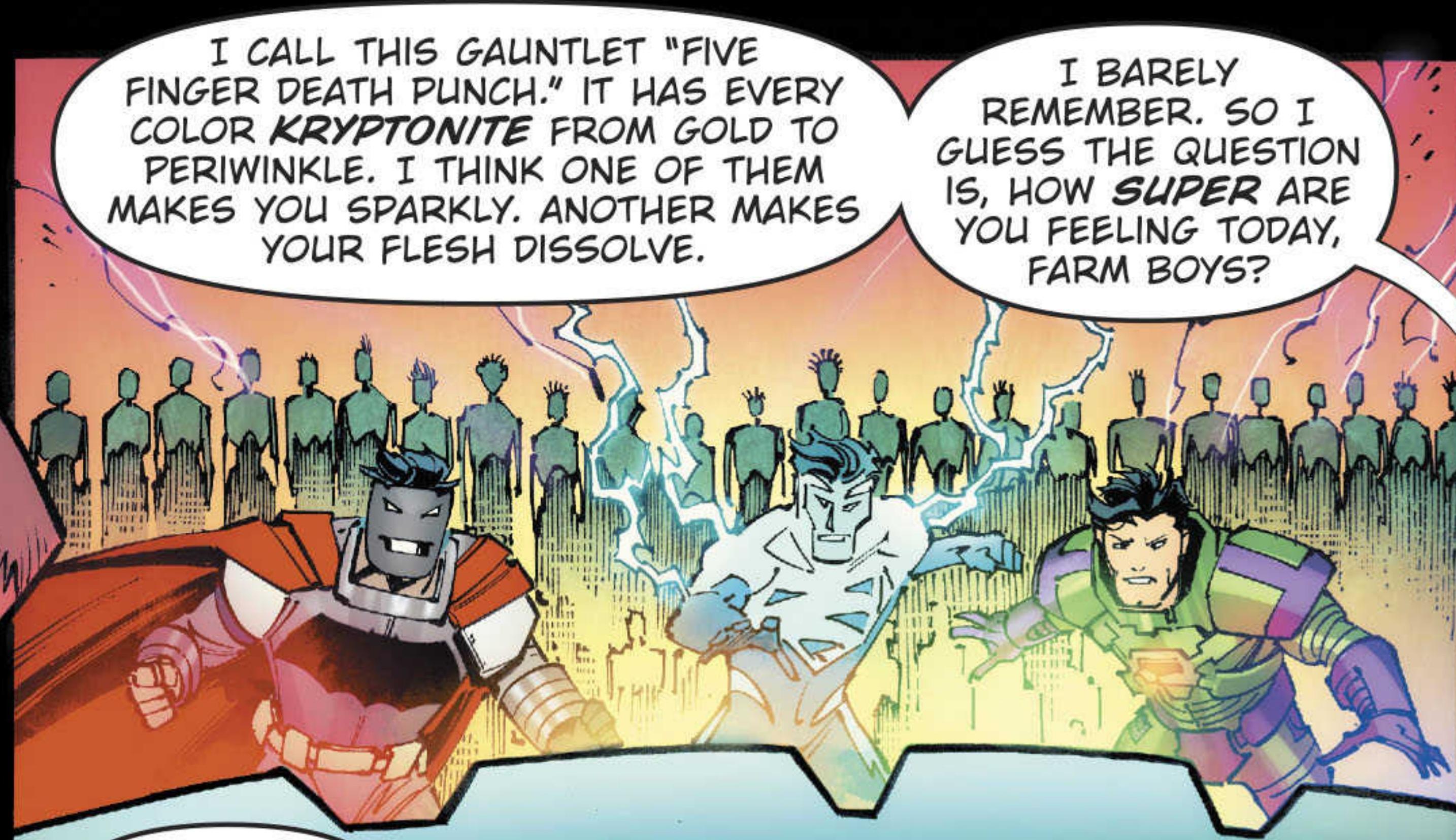
THE GOOD NEWS IS,
YOU'RE NO LONGER NEEDED
HERE. YOU LURED SUPERMAN,
SO HE COULD BECOME THE
GREAT BATTERY. NOW
YOUR WORLD IS SINKING
TOWARD US.

WE CAN
NOW TAKE YOU
TO DEEPER
CORNERS OF
THIS REALM,
FAR FROM
HERE...

...AND FROM
YOUR CLARK.

NOW COME
ALONG, PA WAYNE,
IT'S TIME TO GO
GENTLY INTO THAT
GOOD KNIGHT.

LIKE
HELL IT
IS!



**THE ROCK OF ETERNITY,
COSMIC CENTER OF
THE MULTIVERSE.**

FATE! WHAT
MONSTERS ARE
THESE?

YOU SHALL
NOT PASS!

THE ROCK IS
PROTECTED!

THEY'RE THE
ANCIENT GUARDIANS OF
THIS PLACE, WONDER WOMAN!
THE PERSONIFICATIONS OF THE
SEVEN SINS. WRATH,
GLUTTONY, SLOTH, AVAR--

PUSHING NUNS
DOWN STAIRS,
GYM SELFIES. WE
GET IT! JUST
TAKE THEM OUT
ALREADY!

WHY
ARE THEY
ATTACKING
US?!

I DO NOT
KNOW...THEY SHOULD
BE WELCOMING US,
GIVEN OUR MISSION.
SOMETHING IS NOT
RIGHT!

OH, SOMETHING'S WRONG
WITH THE MISSION? HUGE
SURPRISE! LET ME ASK THIS ONE
WHAT THIS ISSUE IS.

ENOUGH,
KENDRA!

BLAM
BLAM

YOU NEVER SUPPORTED THE LEAGUE'S PLAN TO COLLECT THE LAST BITS OF NTH METAL, SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

I SENSE A DARK, UNKNOWN PRESENCE HERE.

YOU WILL LEAVE! THE...

I WARNED YOU THIS WAS A MISTAKE, BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN!

BY THE GODS, KENDRA, THE ONLY TRUE MISTAKE WE CAN MAKE IS NOT TRUSTING EACH OTHER!

YOU NEED TO OPEN...

THUNK

...UP!

...ROCK IS... SACRED...

I COULD USE THE LASSO. BUT WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS. WHY ARE YOU SO SURE WE'LL FAIL?

LOOK... THIS PLACE.

CARTER LEFT FROM HERE WHEN HE VENTURED INTO THE DARK. THE NTH METAL HERE, IT'S PROBABLY HIS MACE.

YOUR BLACKHAWKS SOUGHT TO DESTROY ALL NTH METAL YET YOU NEVER CAME FOR HIS MACE?

I...WAS AFRAID. CARTER REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE DARK WAS EVIL.

ME...I KNEW. IT'S AS IF...BARBATOS IS IN MY BONES. TELLING ME...ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO DARKNESS.

I COULDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE IF I WAS RIGHT...

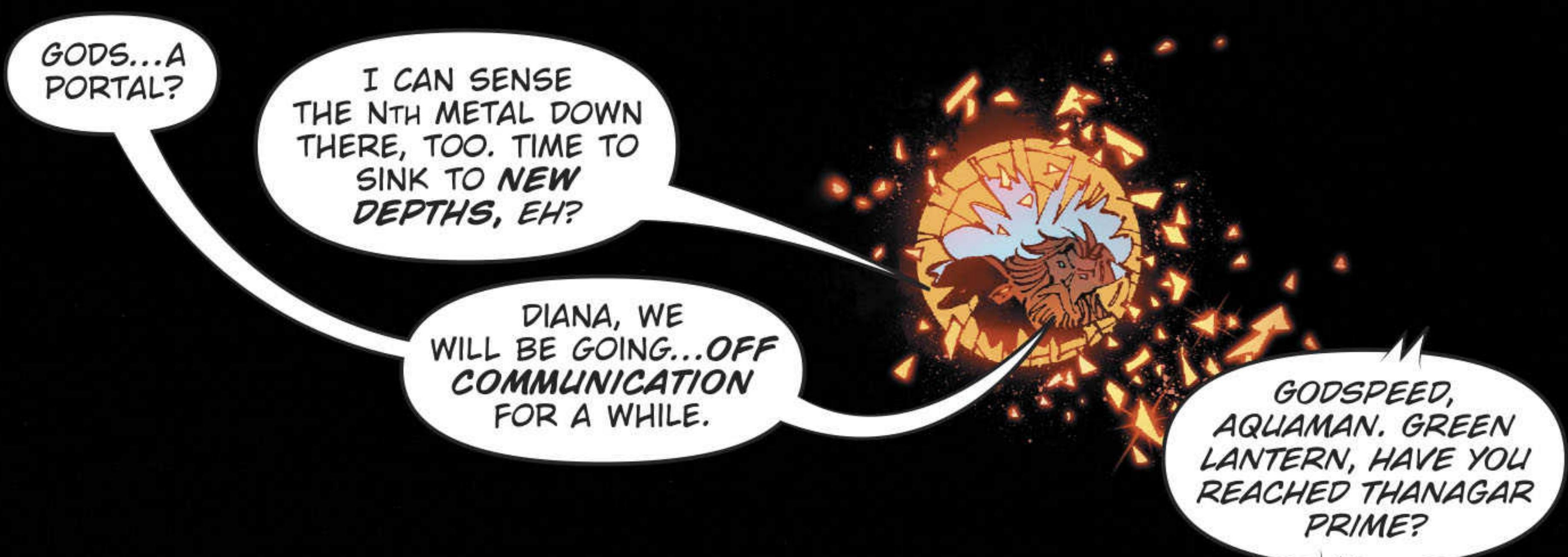
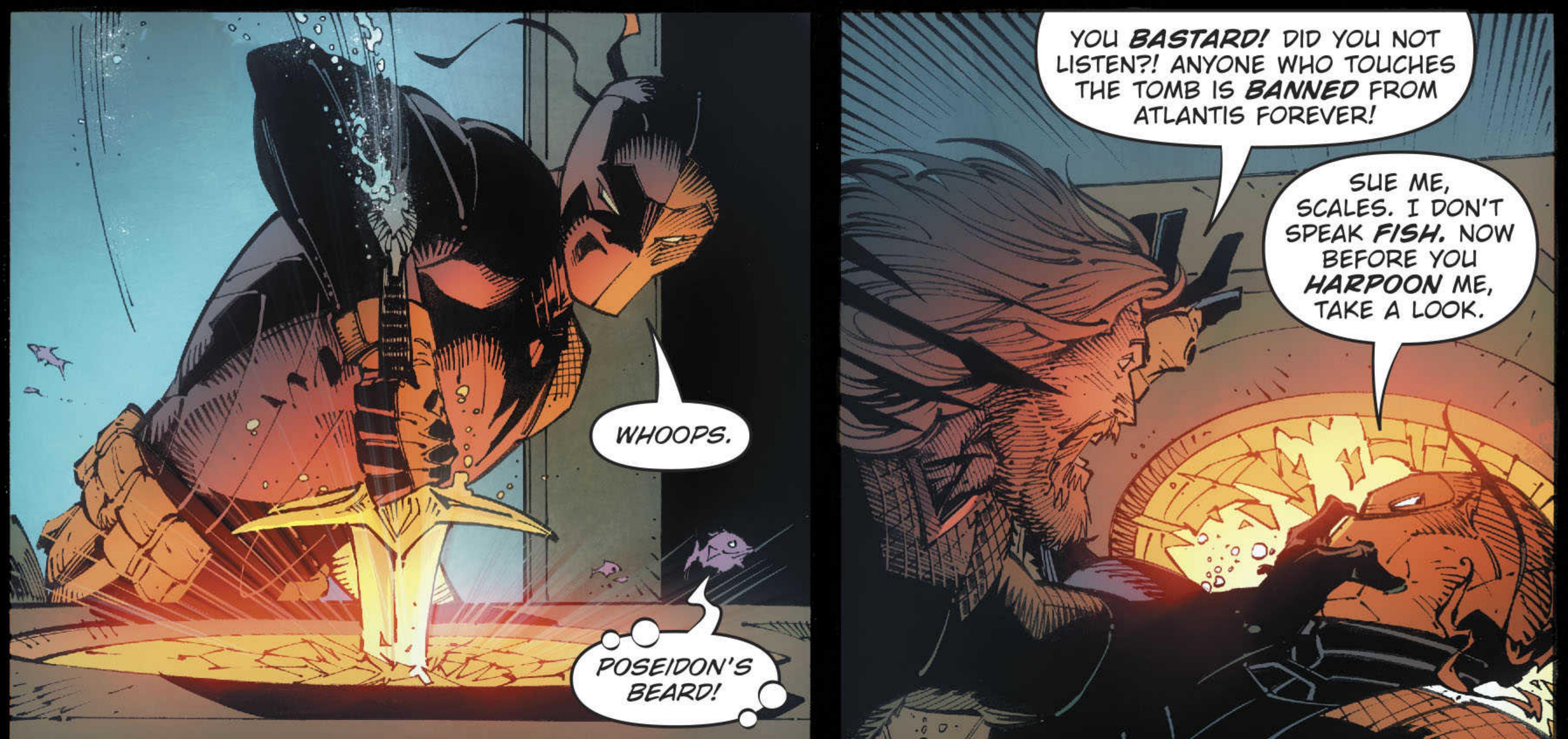
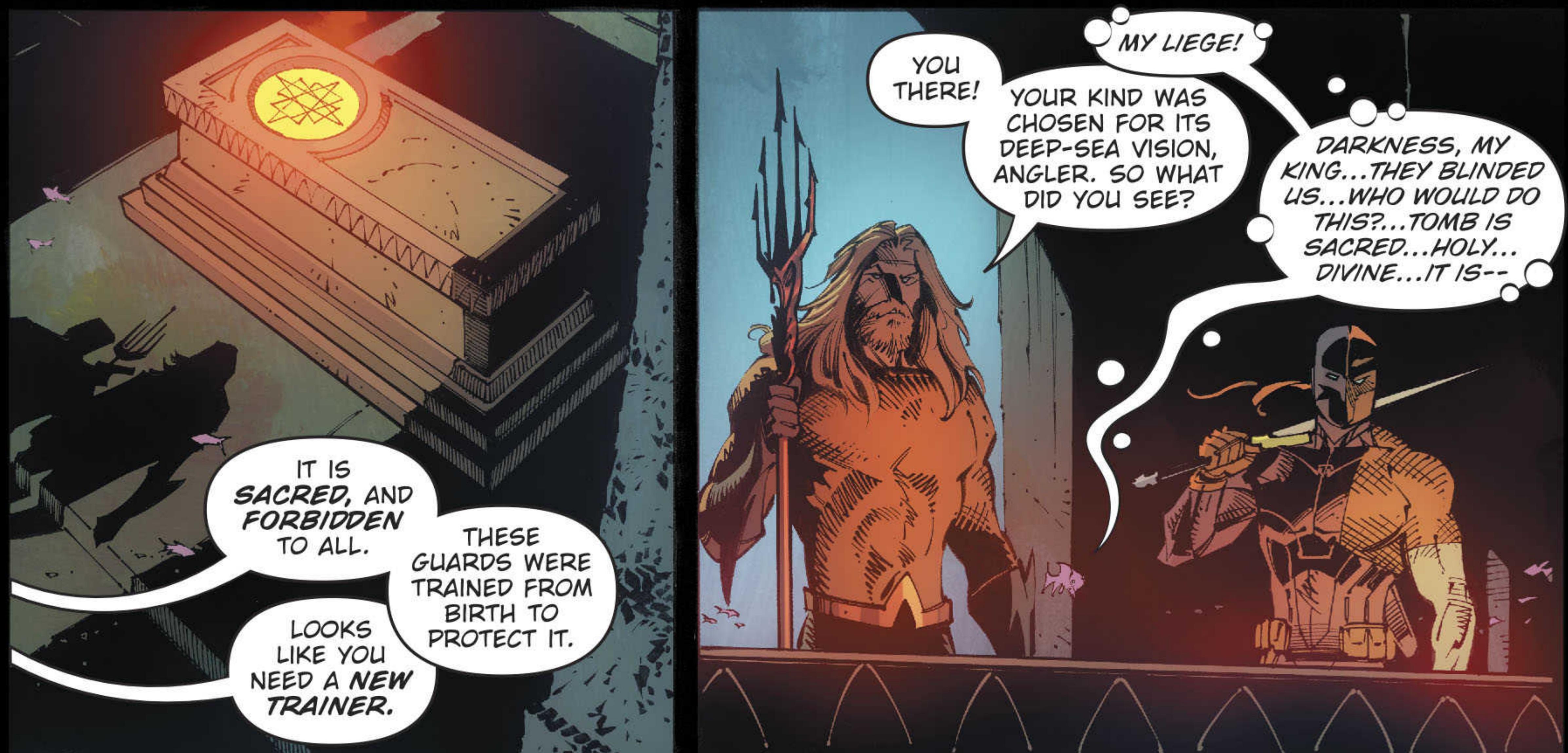
WHATEVER TRUTH IS HERE, KENDRA, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER. I PROMISE.

W WONDER WOMAN, WE'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING.

AQUAMAN? YOU FOUND THE NTH METAL?

NO. WE FOUND...

OUTSKIRTS OF ATLANTIS.





THANAGAR PRIME!



WELCOME, FRIENDS,
TO THE CENTER OF THE
THANAGARIAN EMPIRE! MY
NAME IS ONIMAR SYNN,
AND I AM RULER
HERE.

LORD SYNN, WE ARE
HERE ON A VITAL MISSION.
EARTH, HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY
THE DARK MULTIVERSE. WE
COME SEEKING--

NTH METAL,
I KNOW. I
CONSUMED WHAT
WE HAD LEFT. IT'S IN
MY CELLS. I WAS
WHAT LURED
YOU HERE.

FOR
EONS, I WAS
NEMESIS TO
THE THANAGARIAN
EMPIRE, BUT NOW
I HAVE TAKEN
MY RIGHTFUL
PLACE ON ITS
THRONE...

...WITH THE
HELP OF MY
NEW ALLY,
THE MOST
POWERFUL
TELEPATH
IN THE
UNIVERSE...

NOW??
NOW.

STARRO THE
CONQUEROR!

HAHAHA!
I'M BACK,
LOSERS!

BUT
I--

KILLED
ME? I PSYCHED
YOU OUT, SLICKER,
AND REGREW MYSELF
FROM A PIECE OF MY
OWN EXPLODED
TENTACLAW!*

AND GET THIS,
I NO LONGER NEED MY
PSYCHIC FACE-SPORES
TO CONTROL YOUR PUNY
MINDS! JUST MY WILL
AND EYEBALL! I'M LIKE
SUPER-STARRO!

*SEE ISSUE...UM, SCOTT, GREG...
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? --TAY

*SCOTT
& GREG

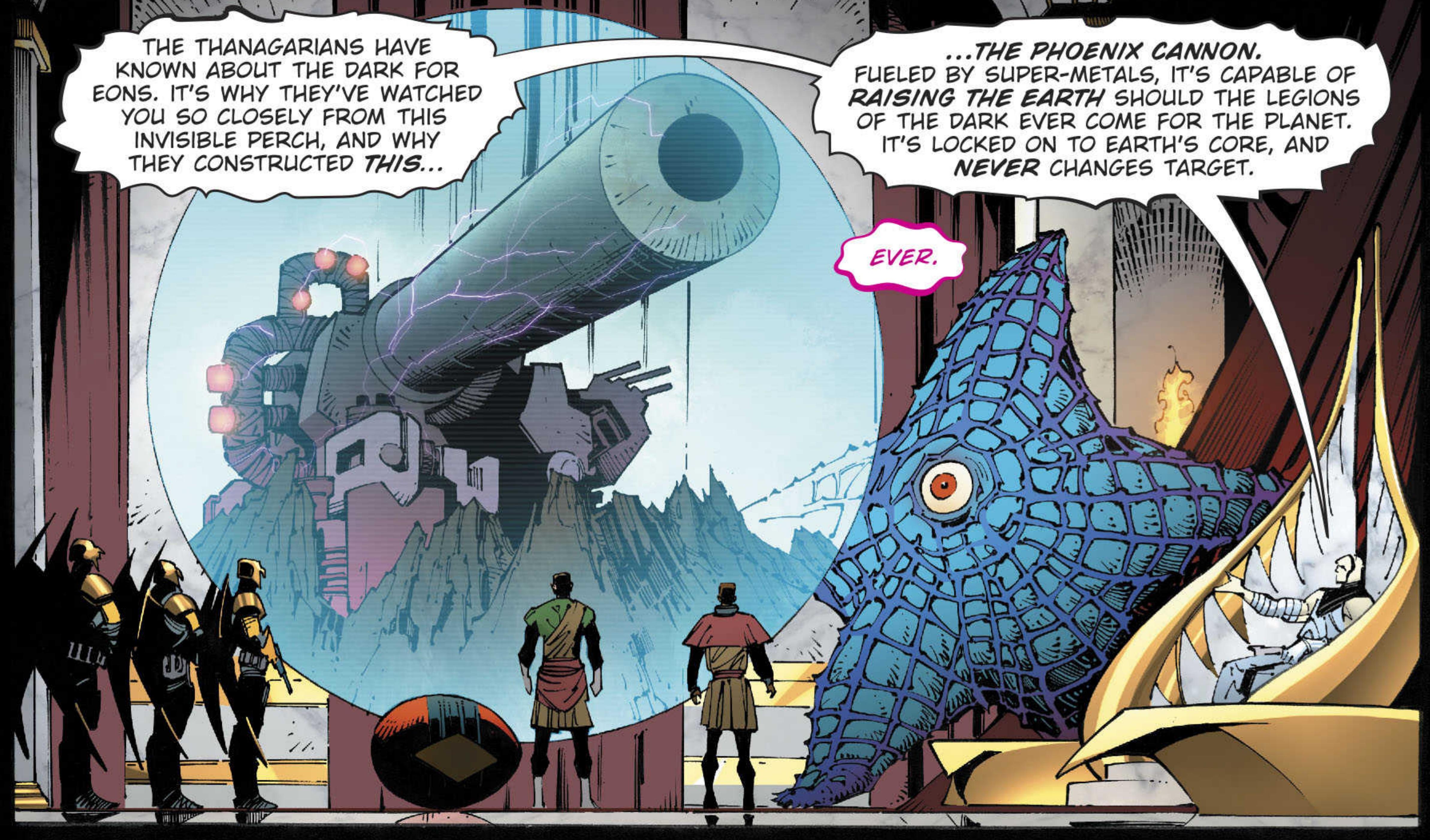
LORD SYNN, IGNORE
THIS PSYCHOPATH AND
LISTEN TO US! IF BARBATOS
SINKS THE EARTH, EVERY-
THING WILL GO WITH IT,
INCLUDING YOU!

HEH.
SEE, THAT'S
WHERE YOU'RE
WRONG...

THE THANAGARIANS HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE DARK FOR EONS. IT'S WHY THEY'VE WATCHED YOU SO CLOSELY FROM THIS INVISIBLE PERCH, AND WHY THEY CONSTRUCTED THIS...

...THE PHOENIX CANNON. FUELED BY SUPER-METALS, IT'S CAPABLE OF RAISING THE EARTH SHOULD THE LEGIONS OF THE DARK EVER COME FOR THE PLANET. IT'S LOCKED ON TO EARTH'S CORE, AND NEVER CHANGES TARGET.

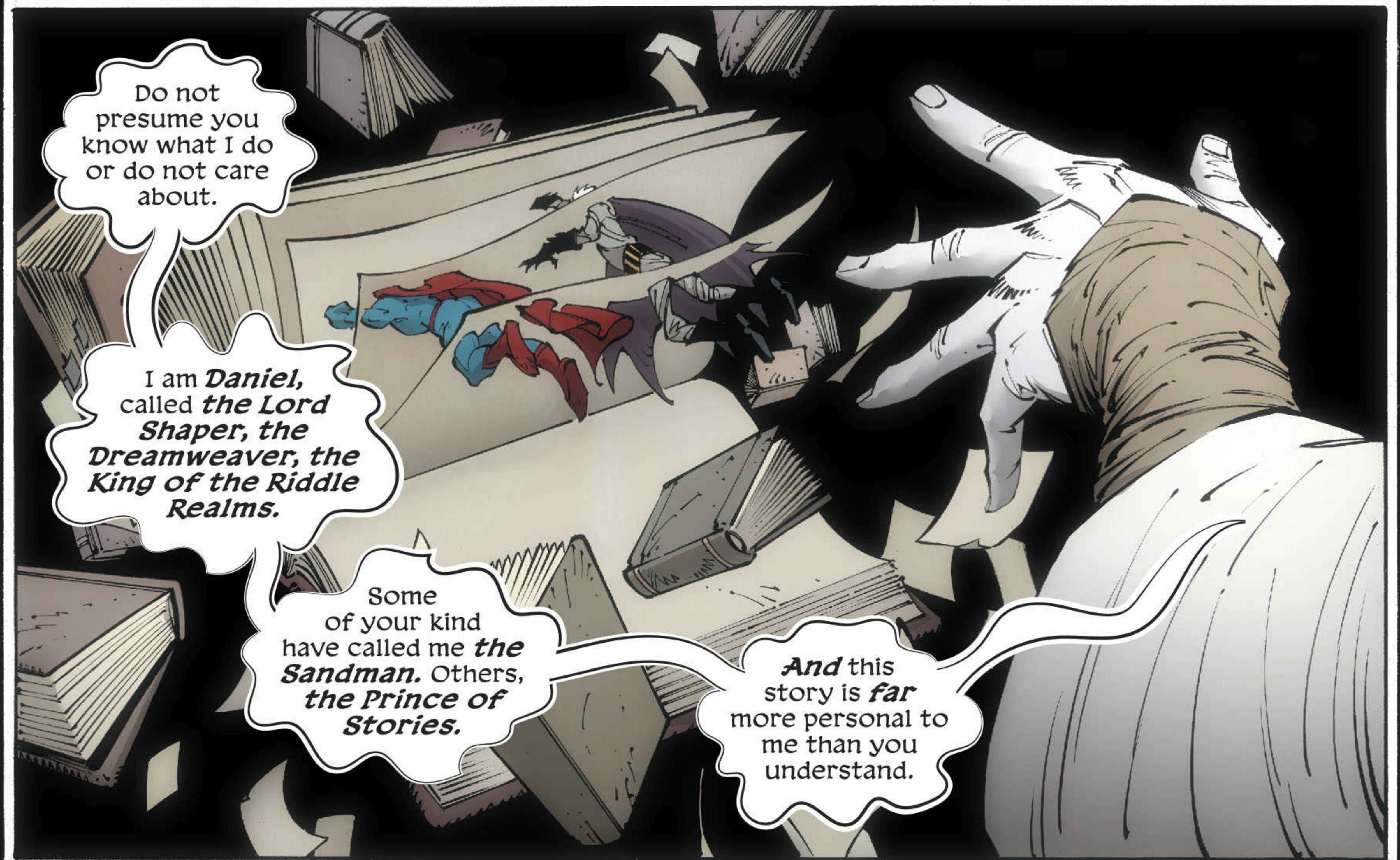
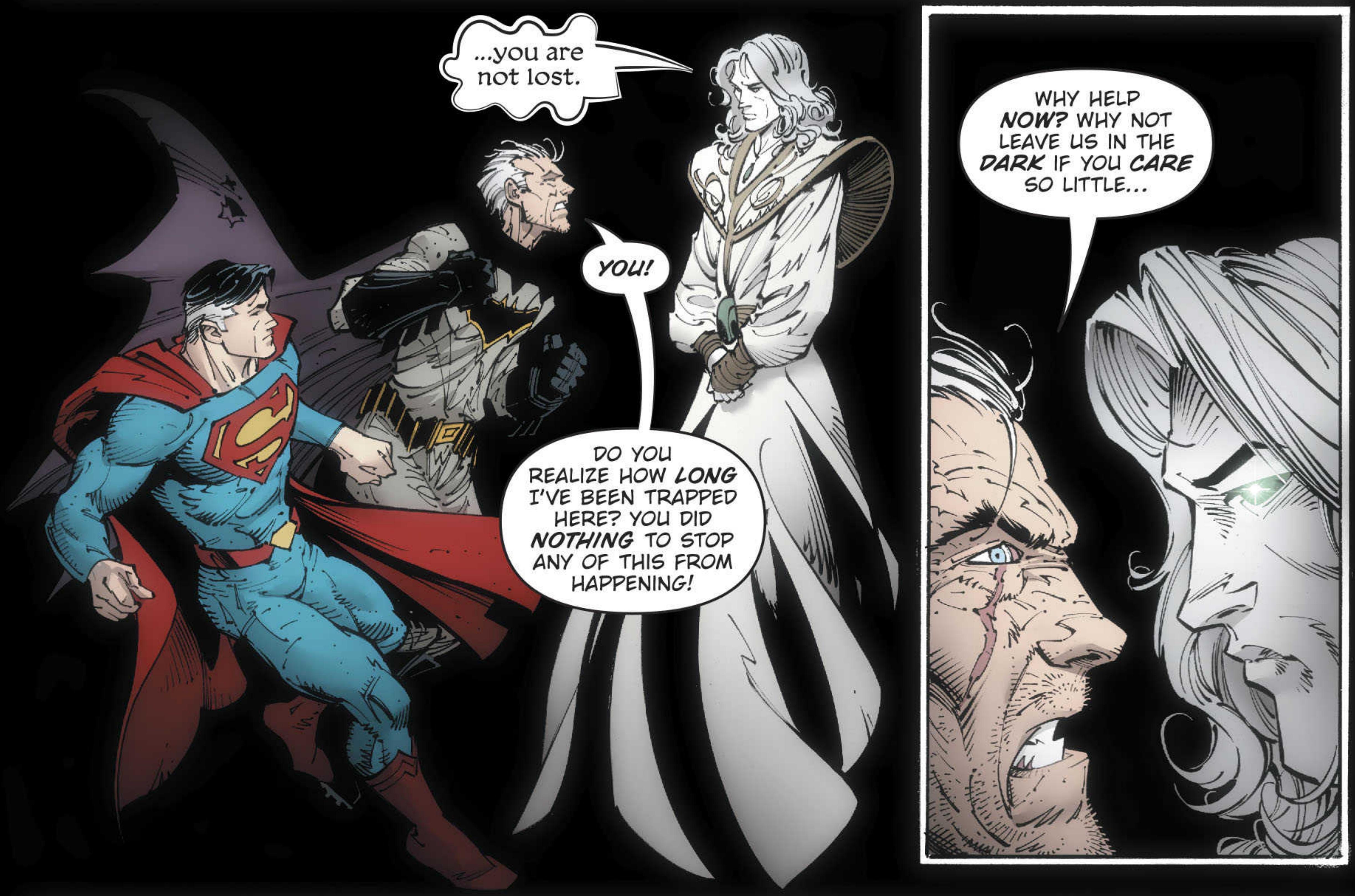
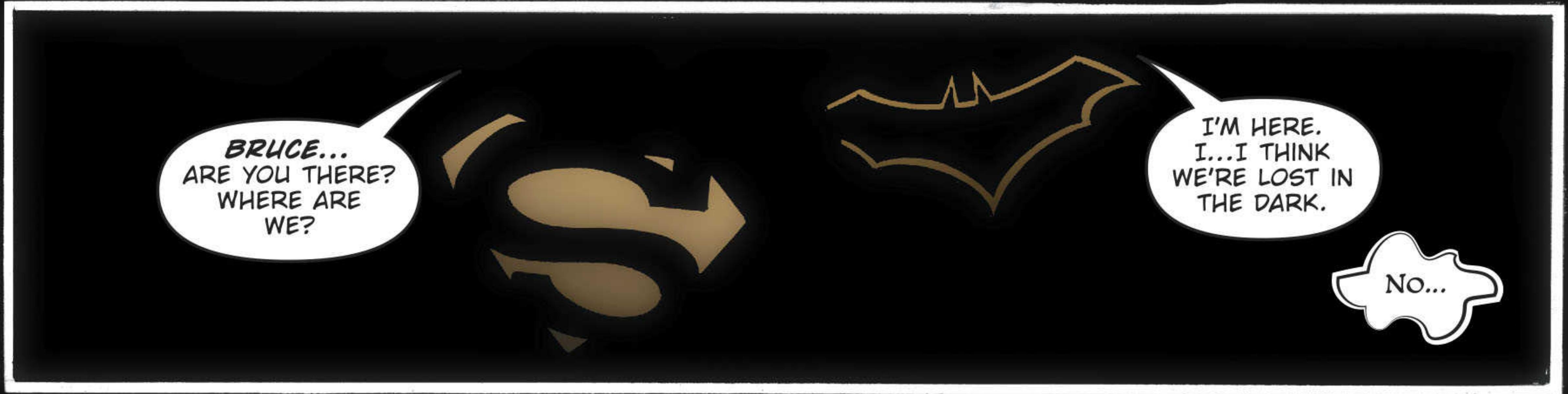
EVER.

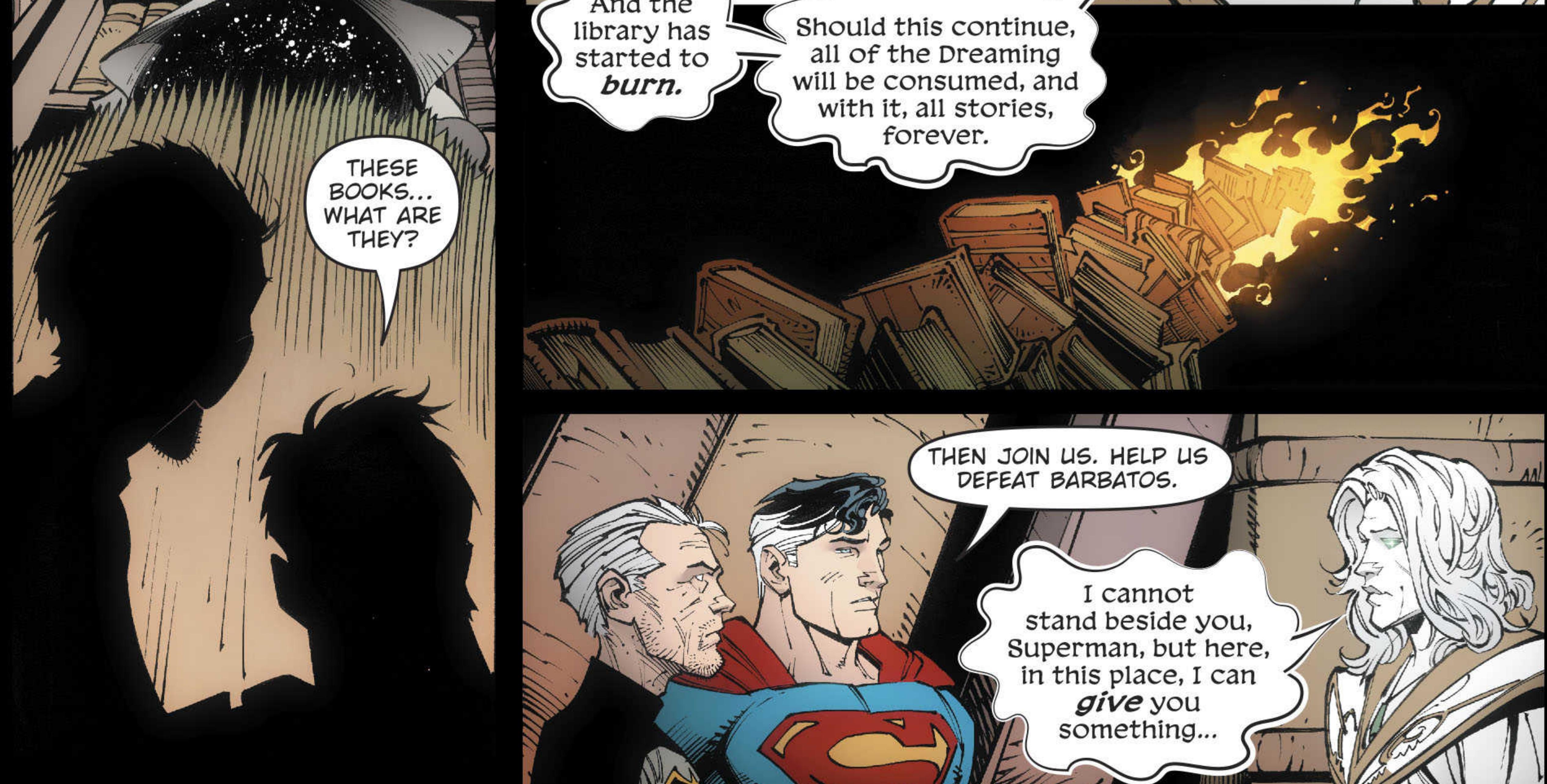
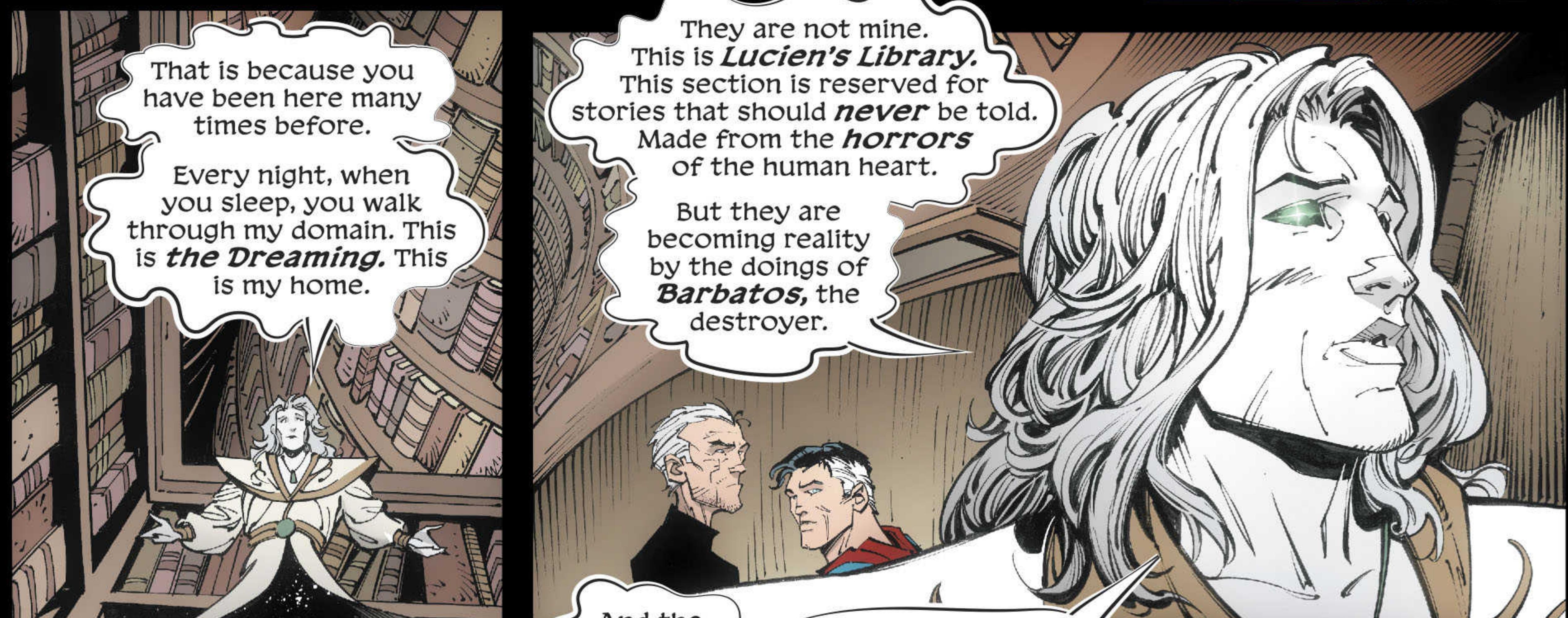


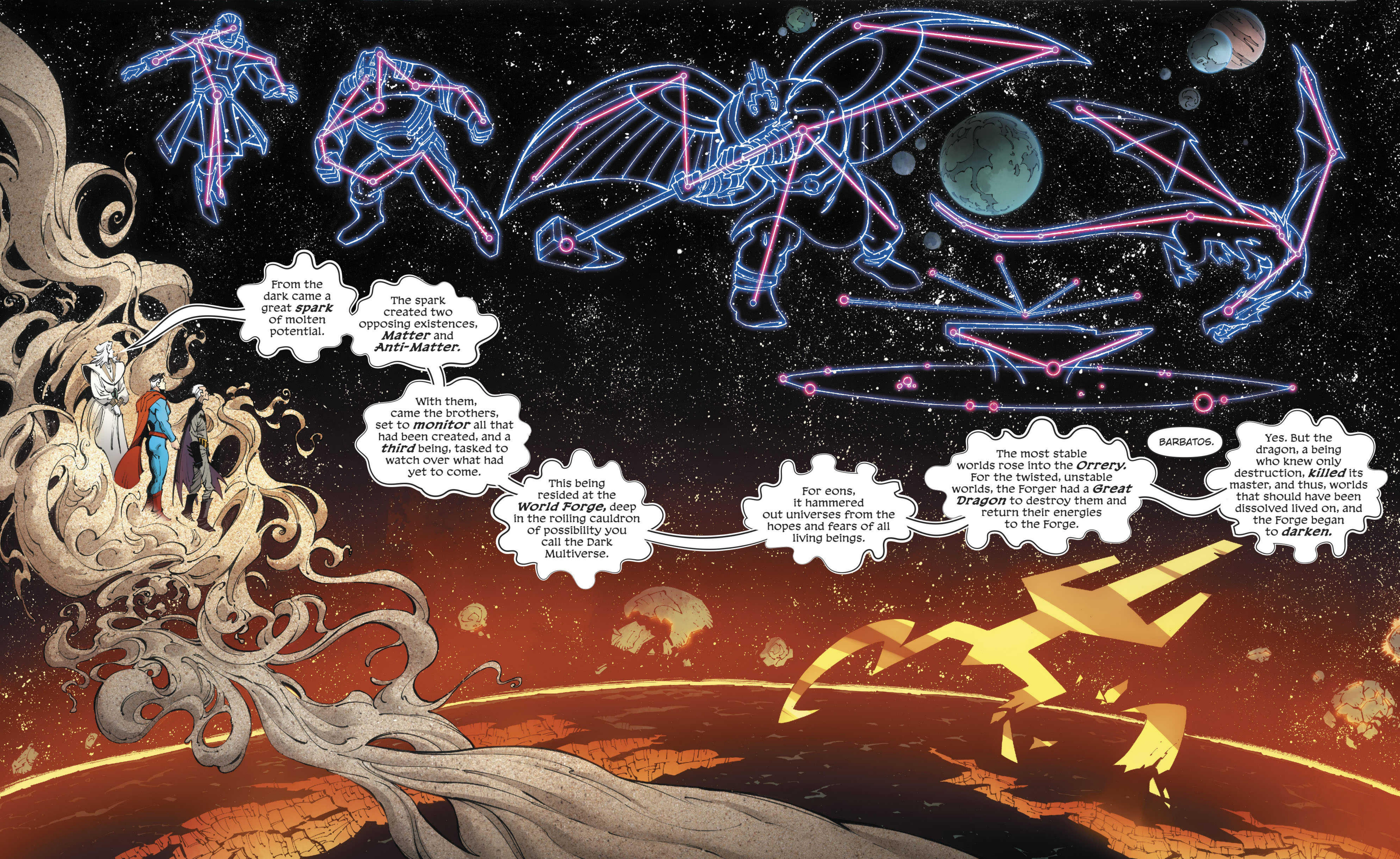
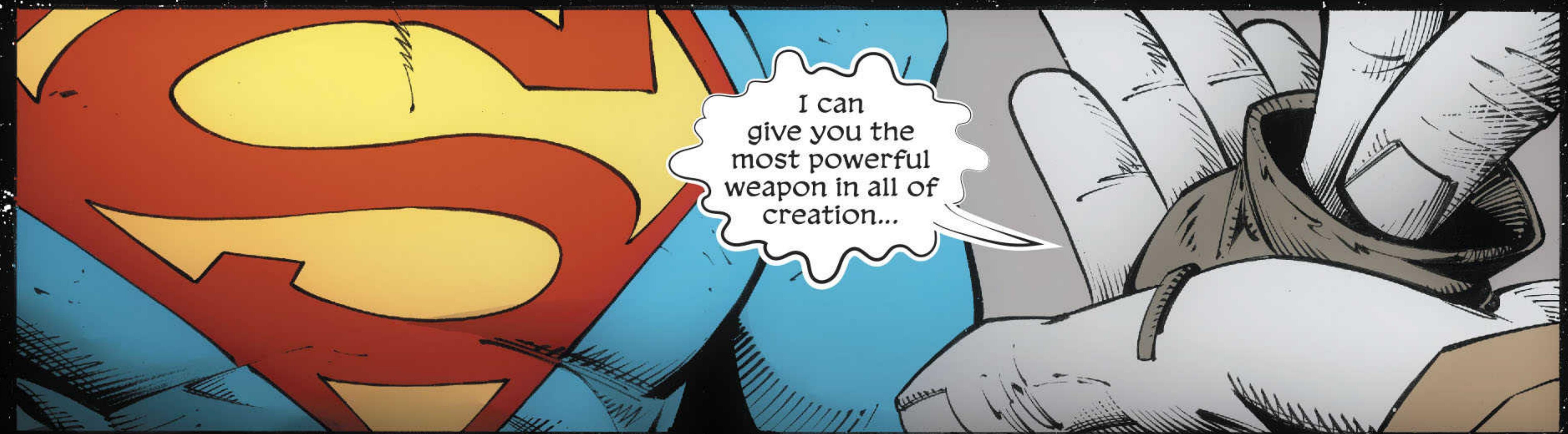
WHEN I FIRST TOOK THIS THRONE, I CONSIDERED USING THE CANNON TO DESTROY YOUR HOME ONCE AND FOR ALL. BUT NOW...NOW I'VE DECIDED ON A MUCH BIGGER PURPOSE FOR IT.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THE FINAL PIECE I NEEDED.









If there is any hope left, it lies at the World Forge, with the last pure, bright metal of possibility, before the fires go dark forever.

Barbatos desires to pull all worlds into the dark, and he is **winning**. Removing Superman from the dark towers stopped Earth from sinking, but it lies at the edge of the cosmic membrane.

Any further and Barbatos will be able to bring forth all the nightmares of the Dark Multiverse.

SO THE NTH METAL WE NEED IS AT THE WORLD FORGE?

The metal of the Forge is **far** more powerful.

What you call Nth metal is but a strain, nearly pure--the **ninth** metal. The eighth, used by the Earth gods, is less so. And down from there. That is why it harms the dragon and its armies.

But they have a greater secret, a **cosmic being** to tip the balance further in their favor, and there is little time left.

WHAT IF BARBATOS HAS ALREADY TURNED THE FORGE DARK?

If it is fully dark... all is lost.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR. WE WON'T TURN BACK.

PLEASE, DREAM... DANIEL... CAN YOU HELP US?

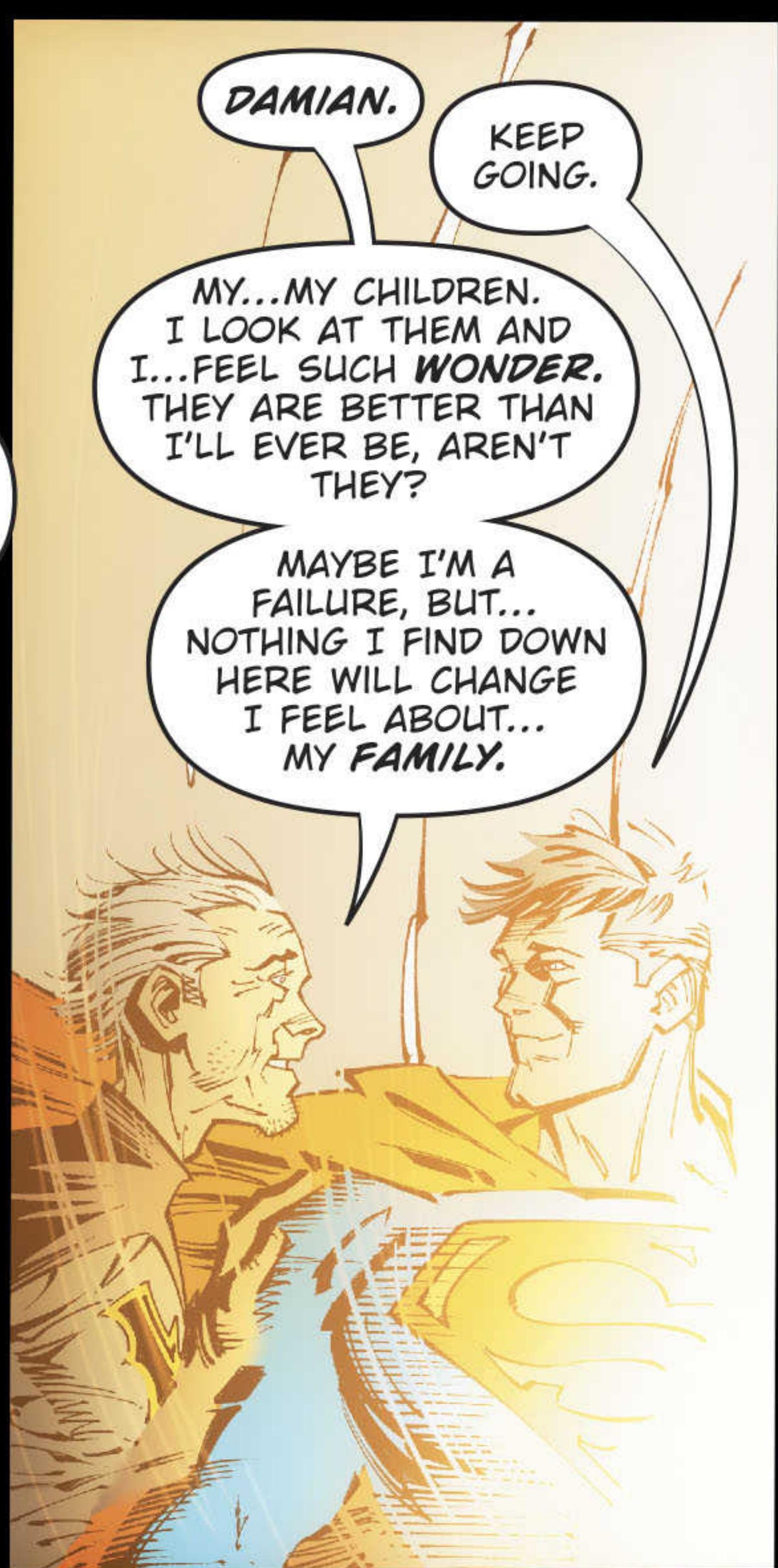
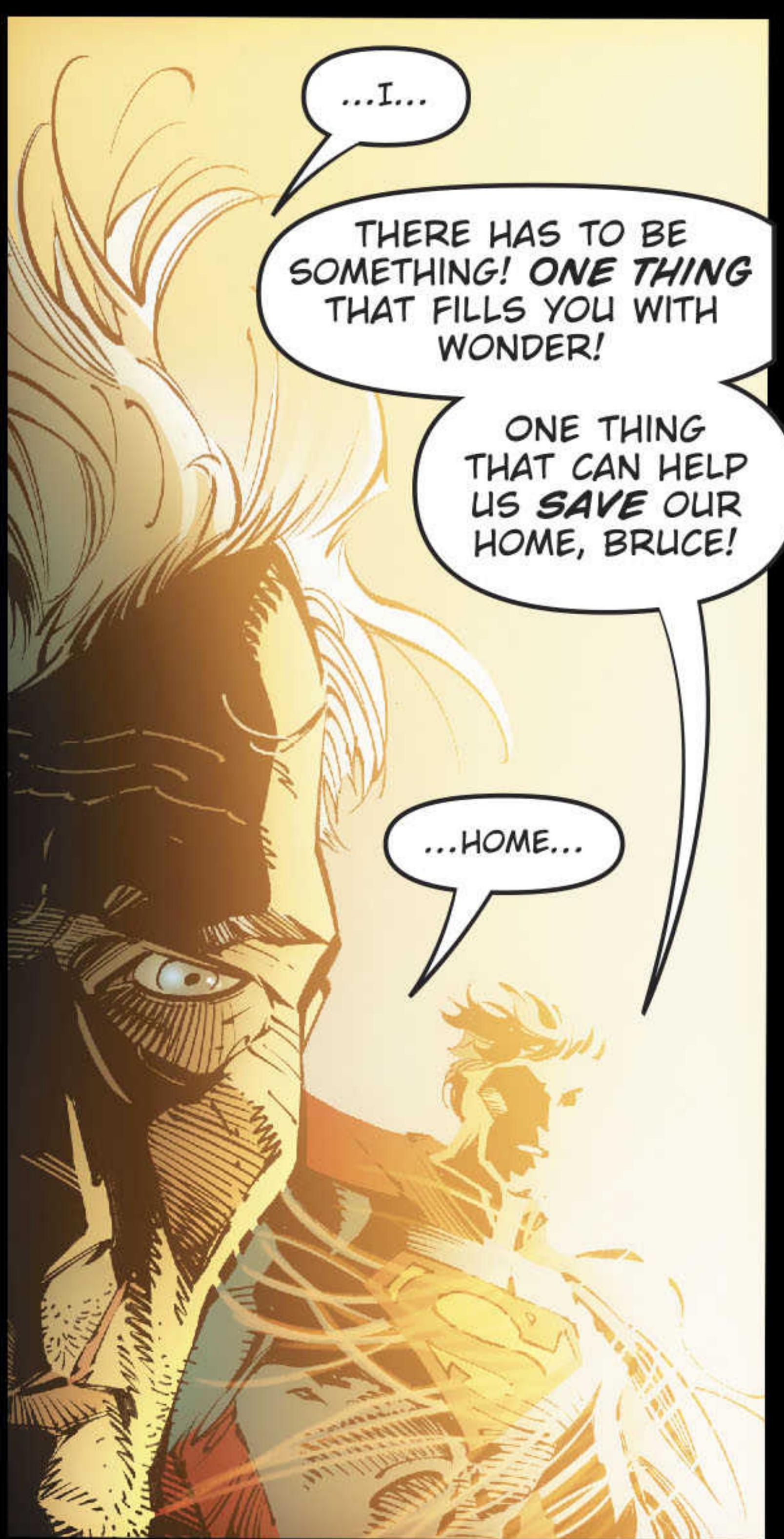
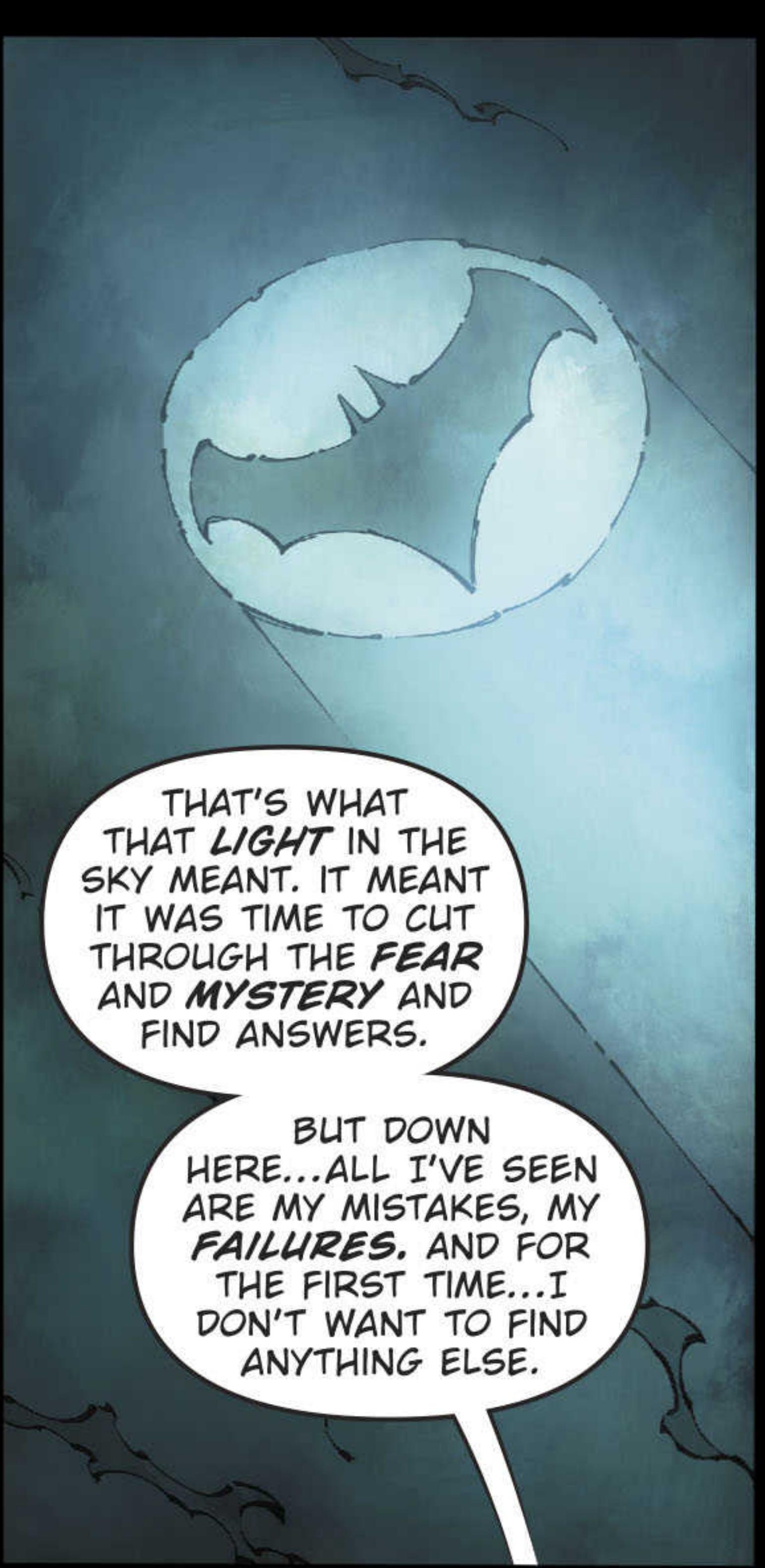
I can create a **passage** for you, from this place. If you walk with **hope** and **wonder** in your heart, it will show you the center of creation...

If **not**, you will be **lost** in the infinite vastness of the Dark Multiverse... forever.

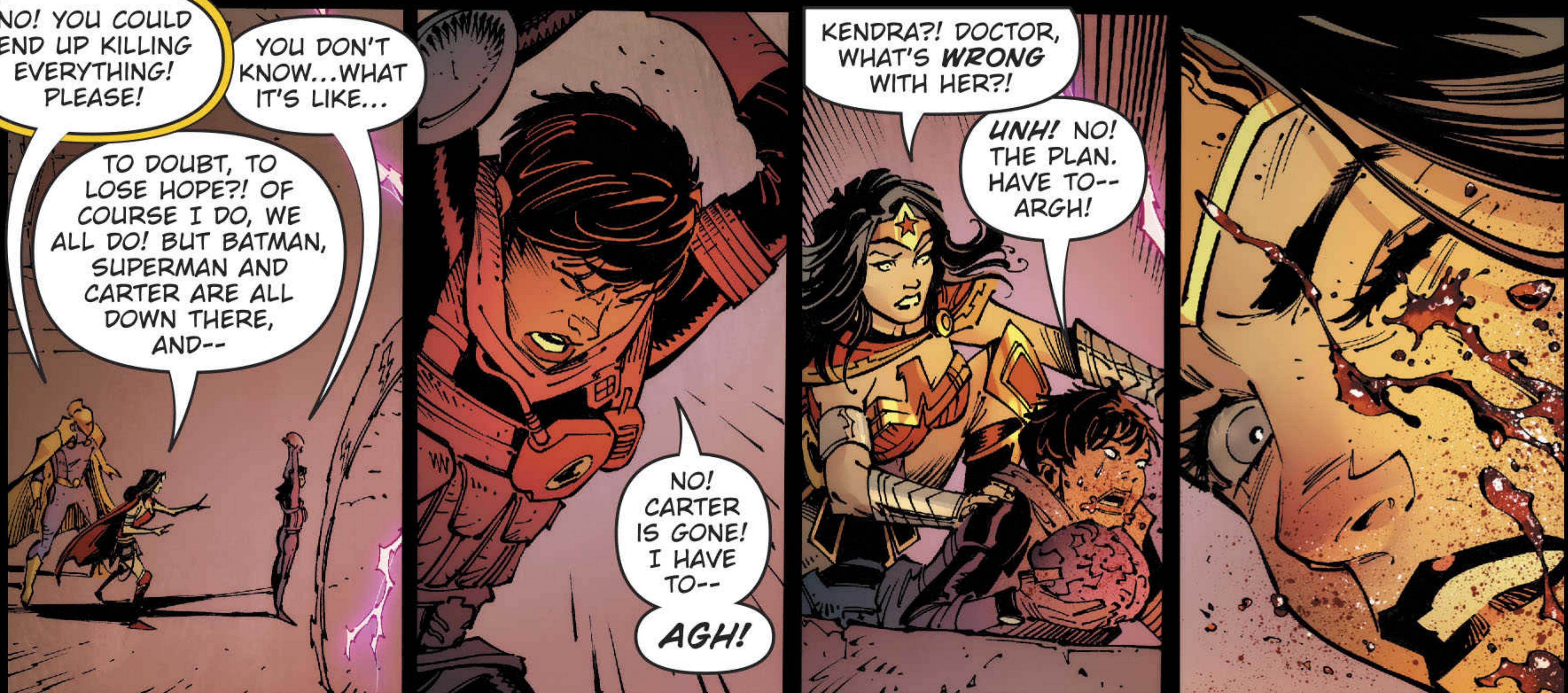
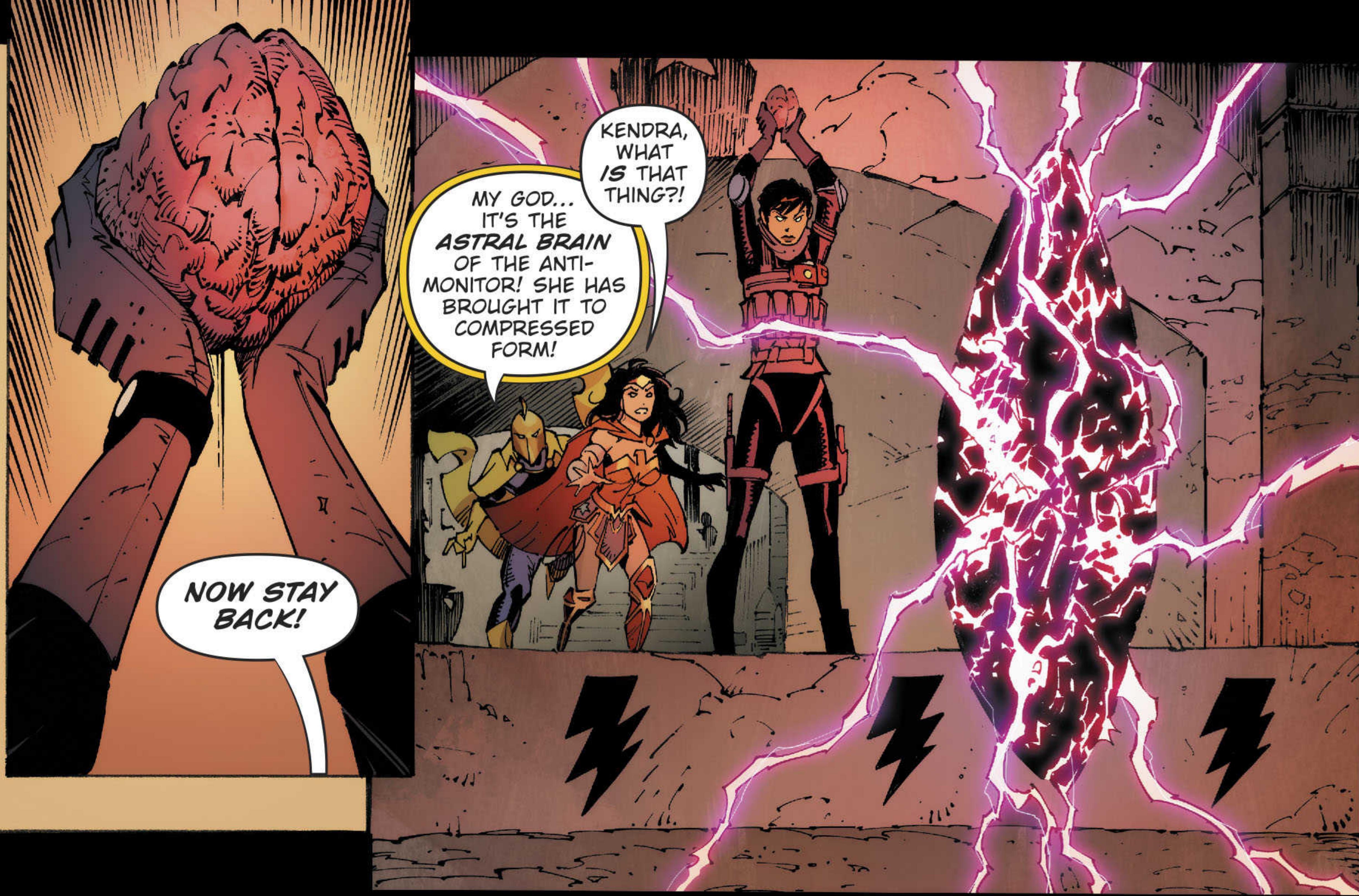
THANK YOU, DREAM.

COME ON, BRUCE, LET'S DO THIS.

CLARK... I... I CAN'T.







GREAT HERA...

KENDRA...

NO, NOT KENDRA.

I AM, LADY BLACKHAWK.

AND ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO DARKNESS.

NO! WE WILL SAVE YOU AND RIDE THE ANKH FROM HERE ON--

RIDE THIS.

KRAKAKKOONN

THERE
WILL BE NO
SAVING ANYONE
TODAY.

BLACK
ADAM?!
BUT WHY--

I AM ONE OF THE
IMMORTALS, AS WAS
KENDRA. I HAVE LIVED
LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW
THEIR PLAN STANDS NO
CHANCE AGAINST FORCES
OF THE DARK.

SO VANDAL
SAVAGE AND I MADE
OUR OWN DEAL WITH
BARBATOS.

NOW GIVE
ME THE BRAIN,
AND I WILL MAKE
THIS PAINLESS.
ALMOST.

NEVER!

My lord, the book
burns in your hands!
So many books burn...

I know, Lucien,
but I will read on
as long as I can...

The heroes keep hope in their hearts, and through the whirling dark, they reach the Great Forge.

But as they near, they see...

NO.

FORCE OF WORLDS.

They are *too late*.
The Forge has gone forever...dark.

THIS...THIS
CAN'T BE HOW
IT ENDS.

CARTER...

CARTER HALL,
IN HIS JOURNAL, HE
SWORE. THE FORGE
WAS SUPPOSED TO
BE A PLACE OF
CREATION, OF
BEGINNINGS.

Then came a booming voice from behind them.

I WAS
WRONG,
BRUCE
WAYNE.

I AM CARTER HALL,
DRAGON OF BARBATOS,
KEEPER OF THE
DARK FORGE.

AND
THERE ARE
ONLY ENDINGS
HERE.

And with those words, this book, and all hope, burns to ash.

Next:
Night of the
Hawks!